MR. P. O. THOMAS: My point is this. The Director of Food Supplies has got at least a provisional estimate about the stock. He knows the amount he has spent for the purchase of foodgrains. At least as an answer to this question he could in fairness have stated the amount spent for the purchase and also the provisional stock on hand so that this House can have an idea about it.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The question is very definite, for which an indefinite an swer will be of no ayail.

Food grains allotment.

244. * MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity (in tons) of food grains allotted to Travancore from British India for the year 1945-46 and the quantity purchased and imported up to 30-6-1945?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Allotments of food grains for the year 1945-46 will be intimated by the Government of India only towards the close of October 1945.

Rice allotment.

245. * MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state;

(*a*) the quantity (in tons) of rice allotted to Travancore from Madras Presidency for the year 1120;

(*b*) the quantity so far purchased and imported from Madras Presidency; and

(*c*) the average price (per maund or bag) at which this quantity was purchased?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) There is no direct allotment to Travancore from Madras Presidency, 70,361 tons rice allotted to the State for Kharif year November 1944—October 1945 from Orissa, Central Provinces and Eastern States will be supplied by Madras on a replacement basis.

(*b*) 43,205 tons rice has so far been purchased and moved.

(*c*) Rs. 10-12 as. per maund at source inclusive of replacement cost.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know from the Honourable member the average cost of transport for a bag of rice?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: The overhead charges, including cost of transport, loading and unloading will amount to Rs. 3 per bag.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: That is, Rs. 1½ per maund?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: Yes.

Recondition and re-stock of bags of food grains.

246. * MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the rate of wages per 100 bags granted to recondition and re-stock in bags the food grains received at Chackai, Trivandrum by the Food Department of Government during the first 6 months of the year 1120;

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